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April 7th 9th 11th

Limerick Choral & Operatic Society

— presents —

Festival of Grand Opera

AT CITY THEATRE

LA BOHEME

(PUCCINI)

APRIL 6, 8 10 & 12

THE BARBER OF SEVILLE

(ROSSINI)

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MESSAGE OF WELCOME



Dear Patrons and Friends of Opera:

It is my privilege as President of the Limerick Choral and Operatic Society to extend to you a sincere welcome to this our first Opera Festival of the present decade.

I consider the Limerick Opera Festival a most precious link between the past and the future and, especially, at a time when such a cultural link is needed.

For many of us this Festival is an occasion of renewing old acquaintances. For those who will be enjoying an Opera Festival for the first time, I am confident that the musical talent of the artistes will set the seeds of enjoyment and appreciation of Opera for the future. For the established lovers of Opera, it is not necessary for me to stress that the revival of our

Festival of Opera, after an unavoidable lapse of two years, holds a promise for that future, founded upon the renowned heritage of music and song which has been Limerick's proud boast over the years and which we who wish to retain and to enshrine this well-known facet of Limerick's music and culture welcome with a sincere appreciation.

On behalf of the Society, I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the generous supporters of our "Friends of Opera" scheme, recently introduced, to help us meet the necessary but ever-rising costs of production and presentation of this Festival. I hope that they, with our Patrons, will be as proud as I am of the personal efforts made by so many voluntary workers and "backroom" Limerick men and women, in the name of operatic music in our city.

We, of the Society, are happy to receive you as our patrons, friends and guests here tonight. May the occasion be one of uplifting enjoyment and of treasured memory to you.

Yours sincerely, FRANCES CONDELL

President, Limerick Choral and Operatic Society

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The Story of the Opera

ACT I

In order to arouse Rosina's interest, Count Almaviva has hired a band of musicians to play an "Aubade," which he sings beneath her window. It fails to awaken her and he pays off and dismisses the players. Figaro, a fashionable barber, appears and Almaviva confides that he can get no response from the lady in the house. Figaro explains that she is jealously watched by her guardian, Dr. Bartolo, and never allowed out even into the balcony.

Rosina, however, does appear at her window for long enough to drop an encouraging note to "Lindora," the poor student that she imagines the Count to be. Figaro suggests that as he has the freedom of the house as barber to the doctor, the Count might stimulate his powers of invention with a tip, which he does. This gives rein to the idea of his entering the house disguised as an inebriated soldier in search of a billet, and the Count agrees that this is an excellent plan.

— INTERVAL —

ACT II

Rosina is writing another letter to "Lindora" when Figaro arrives to attend Dr. Bartolo, whose shaving-day it is. Rosina enlists his help and gives him her letter to pass on to its destination. Don Basilio arrives to give Rosina her music lesson but is drawn into committee by Bartolo, who has decided that he must marry his wealthy ward immediately.

Being suspicious, he cross-examines her closely regarding the quill pen and writing-paper, and she leaves the room in a temper.

The Count now forces his way into the house as planned, and demands to be billeted. The Doctor finds an exemption-certificate, and orders him out of the house. An uproar follows and culminates with the arrival of soldiers under a sergeant who try, but fail, to exert control.

— INTERVAL —

ACT III

The Count makes another attempt to communicate with Rosina by pretending to deputise for Don Basilio, and is giving Rosina a very creditable "singing" lesson, during which they plan to elope the same evening. Basilio himself unexpectedly arrives, but is got rid of as appearing to have scarlatina. Then, in an unguarded moment, Bartolo unmasks the "deputy music-master" and drives him out of the house as well.

A thunderstorm gives temporary relief, during which the Count returns to abduct Rosina by way of the balcony. In the meantime, however, Bartolo has convinced her that the Count is an impostor, whose intention is to hand her over to a "real" Count, so that she rejects him forthwith and agrees to marry the Doctor instead.

Just in time, though, she discovers that Count Almaviva and "Lindora" are one and the same person and so she decides after all to become his Countess.

THE BARBER OF SEVILLE

(An Opera in Three Acts by Gioacchino Rossini)

Words by Carlo Sterbini after Beaumarchais

First Produced at the Argentina Theatre, Rome, on 20th February, 1816

CHARACTERS IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

FIGARELLO (<i>servant to Count Almaviva</i>)	MICHAEL MCGURK
COUNT ALMAVIVA (<i>disguised as 'Lindora'</i>)	EDMUND BOHAN
FIGARO (<i>a fashionable barber</i>)	NEILSON TAYLOR
ROSINA (<i>wealthy heiress</i>)	SARA DE JAVELIN
DR. BARTOLO (<i>guardian to Rosina</i>)	DONALD FRANCKE
MARCELLINA (<i>housekeeper to Dr. Bartolo</i>)	HILDA MOORE
DON BASILIO (<i>singing teacher to Rosina</i>)	STANISLAV PIECZORA
OFFICER	TIM MADDEN
NOTARY	MICHAEL FAHY

Chorus of Musicians and Soldiers

Orchestra of the Limerick Choral and Operatic Society, conducted by
COMDT. JOHN BRENNOCK

Production by EAMONN HENRY

The scene is laid in Seville, about 1750

ACT I — *The Patio of Dr. Bartolo's House.*

ACT II — *Interior of Dr. Bartolo's House.*

ACT III — *The same.*

Intervals of about 12 minutes between Acts

Musical Director	Colette Cantillon
Stage Director	Eamonn Henry
Wardrobe Mistress	Ursula Moran
Assistant Wardrobe Mistress	Peggy O'Shea
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Sets designed by	Eamonn Henry
Sets painted by	Frank Sanquest
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Publicity	Brendan Russell, May McCann
Programme	May McCann
Assistant Programme	Frank Glasgow

CHORUS

Denis Dwane, Kevin Egan, Gerard Gleeson, Barth. Harte, James Henry, Michael Henry, Martin Hannon, Michael Hannan, John Moloney, Jeffrey Nolan, Christy O'Hailoran, Sean O'Shea, Michael C. McCann, Jimmy McMahon.

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Messrs. Alma Fitt, John MacKenzie, Henry Hayes.

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THANKS . . .

The Limerick Choral and Operatic Society wish to place on record their very deep appreciation and grateful thanks to all those who contributed in any way to make the Opera Festival a success; with a special word of thanks to An Comhairle Ealaíon, who have guaranteed a very generous sum against loss; Guinness Group Sales for sponsoring the Festival Club; the Mid-Western Regional Tourism Organisation Ltd. for sponsoring Cover of Programme and Press Conference; Savoy Restaurant for Reception Lunch for Guest Artistes; The Hazel Bridge Club for proceeds of Bridge Tournament; the Press and our Advertisers.

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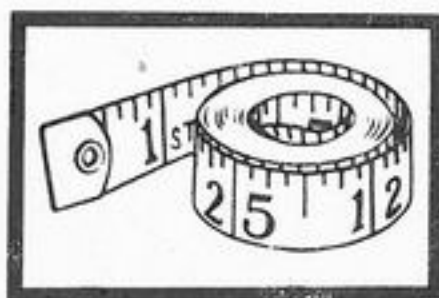
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1958	<i>THE BOHEMIAN GIRL</i>	<i>Balfe</i>
	<i>MARITANA</i>	<i>Wallace</i>
1959	<i>THE GIPSY BARON</i>	<i>Strauss</i>
	<i>LA TRAVIATA</i>	<i>Verdi</i>
	<i>LILY OF KILLARNEY</i>	<i>Benedict</i>
1960	<i>THE STUDENT PRINCE</i>	<i>Romberg</i>
	<i>LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR</i>	<i>Donizetti</i>
	<i>IL TROVATORE</i>	<i>Verdi</i>
1961	<i>THE LAND OF SMILES</i>	<i>Lehar</i>
	<i>RIGOLETTO</i>	<i>Verdi</i>
	<i>FAUST</i>	<i>Gounod</i>
1962	<i>THE BOHEMIAN GIRL</i>	<i>Balfe</i>
	<i>LA BOHEME</i>	<i>Puccini</i>
	<i>LA TRAVIATA</i>	<i>Verdi</i>
	<i>THE BARBER OF SEVILLE</i>	<i>Rossini</i>
1963	<i>LA PERICHOLE</i>	<i>Offenbach</i>
	<i>MADAME BUTTERFLY</i>	<i>Puccini</i>
	<i>DON PASQUALE</i>	<i>Donizetti</i>
	<i>CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA</i>	<i>Mascagni</i>
	<i>I PAGLIACCI</i>	<i>Leoncavallo</i>
1964	<i>CARMEN</i>	<i>Bizet</i>
	<i>IL TROVATORE</i>	<i>Verdi</i>
	<i>L'ELISIR D'AMORE</i>	<i>Donizetti</i>
1965	<i>TOSCA</i>	<i>Puccini</i>
	<i>LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR</i>	<i>Donizetti</i>
	<i>THE BARBER OF SEVILLE</i>	<i>Rossini</i>
1966	<i>RIGOLETTO</i>	<i>Verdi</i>
	<i>FAUST</i>	<i>Gounod</i>
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	<i>JUNIOR FESTIVAL CONCERT</i>	
1967	<i>LA BOHEME</i>	<i>Puccini</i>
	<i>LA TRAVIATA</i>	<i>Verdi</i>
	<i>OPERATIC CELEBRITY CONCERT</i>	
	<i>JUNIOR FESTIVAL CONCERT</i>	
1968	<i>SERIES OF OPERATIC CELEBRITY CON- CERTS AND JUNIOR CONCERTS</i>	
1969	<i>LILY OF KILLARNEY</i>	<i>Benedict</i>

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Edward Byles
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Veronica Dunne
William Dickie
Glenys Dowdle
Walter Dinoff
Ronald Evans
Edwin Fitzgibbon
Austin Gaffney
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Richard Golding
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Lucille Graham
Edna Graham
Emyr Green
Gwyn Griffiths
David Holman
Rowland Jones
Valmai Johnston
Brian Kissane
Patricia Lawlor
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Michael McCann
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Thomas Round
Sylvia Rowlands
Elizabeth Rust
Mary Ryan
Josephine Scanlan
Robert Simmons
John Stoddart
Marion Studholme
Russell Smith
Laura Sarti
Gerald Stern
Robert Thomas
Evan Thomas
Pauline Tinsley
Frederick Westcott
Alan Ward